



United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: EXTRACORPOREAL BLOOD CIRCUIT AIR REMOVAL SYSTEM AND METHOD.

The specification of which

a. is attached hereto

b. X was filed on 12-22-2003 application serial no. 10/743,598 was amended on (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no. filed and as amended on (if any), which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).¹

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent of inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

a. X no such applications have been filed.

b. such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC §119

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	DATE OF ISSUE

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	DATE OF ISSUE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §156(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

¹

§ 1.56 Duty of disclosure; fraud, striking or rejection of applications.

(a) A duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and Trademark Office rests on the inventor, on each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application and on every other individual who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application. All such individuals have a duty to disclose to the Office information they are aware of which is material to the examination of the application. Such information is material where there is substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent. The duty is commensurate with the degree of involvement in the preparation or prosecution of the application.

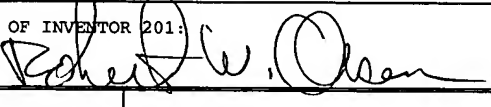
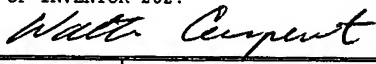
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Harold R. Patton	Reg. No. 22,157	Girma Wolde-Michael	Reg. No. 30,724
Thomas G. Berry	Reg. No. 31,736	Kenneth J. Collier	Reg. No. 34,982
Daniel W. Latham	Reg. No. 30,401	Curtis D. Kinghorn	Reg. No. 33,926
Thomas F. Woods	Reg. No. 36,726	Eric R. Waldkoetter	Reg. No. 36,713
Stephen W. Bauer	Reg. No. 32,192	Michael C. Soldner	Reg. No. 41,455
John W. Albrecht	Reg. No. 40,481	E. Lacy Belden	Reg. No. 50,751
Paul H. McDowall	Reg. No. 34,873	Daniel G. Chapik	Reg. No. 43,424
James R. Keogh	Reg. No. 44,824		

Please direct all correspondence in this case to: Daniel W. Latham
Medtronic, Inc.
710 Medtronic Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55432
763-391-9661

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

2 0 1	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Robert	MIDDLE INITIAL W.	LAST NAME Olsen
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Plymouth	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Minnesota	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 12817 45th Avenue N.	CITY Plymouth	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY MN 55442 USA
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201: 				DATE: 6/7/04
2 0 2	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Walter	MIDDLE INITIAL L.	LAST NAME Carpenter
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Minneapolis	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Minnesota	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 3746 Humboldt Avenue	CITY Minneapolis	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY MN 55412 USA
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202: 				DATE: 6/7/04
2 0 3	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME John	MIDDLE INITIAL B.	LAST NAME Dickey
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Woods Cross	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Utah	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 2204 S. 1600 W	CITY Woods Cross	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY UT 84087 USA
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203:				DATE:

 x Additional pages of this declaration follow.

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2 0 2	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Walter	MIDDLE INITIAL L.	LAST NAME Carpenter
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Minneapolis	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Minnesota	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 3746 Humboldt Avenue	CITY Minneapolis	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY MN 55412 USA
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202:				DATE:
2 0 3	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME John	MIDDLE INITIAL B.	LAST NAME Dickey
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Woods Cross	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Utah	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 2204 S. 1600 W	CITY Woods Cross	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY UT 84087 USA
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203:				DATE: 6-11-04

 x Additional pages of this Declaration follow.

204	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Frederick	MIDDLE INITIAL A.	LAST NAME Shorey
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Grand Rapids	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Michigan	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 309 Briarwood Avenue SE	CITY Grand Rapids	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY MI 49506 USA
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204: 				DATE: 4/30/04
205	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Laura	MIDDLE INITIAL A.	LAST NAME Yonce
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Fridley	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Minnesota	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 7580 Alden Way	CITY Fridley	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY MN 55432
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205: 				DATE: 6/7/04
206	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Mark	MIDDLE INITIAL D.	LAST NAME Stringham
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Salt Lake City	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Utah	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 6102 S. Dewdrops Drive	CITY Salt Lake City	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY UT 84118 USA
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206:				DATE:
207	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 207:				DATE:
208	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 208:				DATE:

This is the final page of the declaration.

204	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Frederick	MIDDLE INITIAL A.	LAST NAME Shorey
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Grand Rapids	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Michigan	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 309 Briarwood Avenue SE	CITY Grand Rapids	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY MI 49506 USA
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204:				DATE:
205	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Laura	MIDDLE INITIAL A.	LAST NAME Yonce
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Fridley	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Minnesota	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 7580 Alden Way	CITY Fridley	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY MN 55432
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205:				DATE:
206	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Mark	MIDDLE INITIAL D.	LAST NAME Stringham
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Salt Lake City	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Utah	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP United States
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 6102 S. Dewdrops Drive	CITY Salt Lake City	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY UT 84118 USA
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206: 				DATE: 4-22-2004
207	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 207:				DATE:
208	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY of CITIZENSHIP
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY
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